

Ford Motor Company Assembly Plant
640 Memorial Drive
Cambridge
Middlesex County
Massachusetts

HAER MA-30

HAER
MASS.
9-CAMB,
36-

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
PHOTOGRAPHS

Historic American Engineering Record
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

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FORD MOTOR COMPANY, ASSEMBLY PLANT

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Date: 1913

Location: 640 Memorial Dr. Cambridge, Middlesex County, Massachusetts.

Architect: John Graham

Owners: Originally; Ford Motor Company
Presently: Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Significance The Ford Motor Company Assembly plant was built in 1913 in the first stage of decentralization of Ford production from Detroit to sites around the country. The Northeast branch of the Ford Company was initially located in Boston and, following construction of a new plant on Memorial Drive, moved to Cambridge in 1914. The plant stood on a riverfront site probably in consideration of Henry Ford's decree that all his factories have access to water routes. Although the Ford business prospered in Cambridge, the assembly operations moved to a new plant in Somerville, Mass. in 1926. The Cambridge building now belongs to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and until recently was used for manufacturing by the Polaroid Corporation.

Transmitted by: Dan Clement, 1984. Historical information written by Peter Stott.